



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

May 5, 2017

Stewart Gray
Preservation Planner
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission
2100 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

RE: Proposed Designation of the Red Front Department Store, 1125 Belmont Avenue, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for the report we received on the proposed designation of the Red Front Department Store located at 1125 Belmont Avenue in Charlotte. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

The Red Front Department Store possesses local significance as the most architecturally distinctive commercial building in the Belmont neighborhood. The building is one of only a few pre-World War II commercial buildings surviving in the neighborhood with relatively good integrity and the only one that is two stories. Constructed in 1902, it is the oldest of this small group of commercial buildings, the others having been built in the 1920s and 1930s. Notable features of the property include a recessed corner entrance with original paired doors, storefronts that are largely intact despite infill with concrete block (which is easily removed), and segmental-arched window openings. Due to the property's urban location, an archaeological survey is not recommended by the Office of State Archaeology.

We believe the designation report provides the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission and the local governing board adequate information to determine the Red Front Department Store has the requisite special significance and integrity for landmark designation.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes the property as one worthy of preservation because of its special significance in the local community. Any substantial changes in design, materials, and appearance is subject to the design review procedures of the preservation commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report. Please note, our comments are advisory only and therefore, nonbinding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, it should proceed in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance. Once the decision has been made, please return a completed copy of the enclosed form to our office.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed designation of the Red Front Department Store. Please contact me at 919-807-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amber E. Kidd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amber E. Kidd
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure